

Application Number 09/733,302
Amendment dated November 8, 2006
Responsive to Office Action mailed August 11, 2006

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original) A connective tissue distraction device comprising:

- a) first transmitting means for transmitting force to a first tissue region,
- b) second transmitting means for transmitting force to a second tissue region,
- c) expansion means for exerting force distracting said first transmitting means from said second transmitting means,

wherein one or two of said first transmitting means, said second transmitting means and said expansion means comprises a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material;

further wherein said expansion means is not integral to at least one of said first transmitting means and said second transmitting means.

Claim 2 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein said first transmitting means comprises a structure for attachment to bone.

Claim 3 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 2, wherein said structure for attachment to bone comprises at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 4 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 2, wherein said structure for attachment to bone is a plate.

Claim 5 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 2, wherein said structure for attachment to bone is attached to bone via at least one screw.

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Claim 6 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 5, wherein said screw is at least in part biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 7 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the second transmitting means comprises a structure for attachment to bone.

Claim 8 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 7, wherein said structure for attachment to bone is at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 9 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 7, wherein the structure for attachment to bone is a plate.

Claim 10 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 7, wherein said structure for attachment to bone is attached to bone via at least one screw.

Claim 11 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 10, wherein said screw is at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 12 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first transmitting means, second transmitting means or the expansion means comprise a malleable or heat malleable material.

Claim 13 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein said first tissue region comprises connective tissue.

Claim 14 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein said first tissue region comprises bone.

Claim 15 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein said second tissue region comprises connective tissue.

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Claim 16 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein said second tissue region comprises bone.

Claim 17 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the expansion means comprises a screw actuated expansion mechanism.

Claim 18 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein said expansion means comprises at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 19 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, further comprising an activation means.

Claim 20 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 19, wherein said activation means is directly or indirectly engaged with expansion means.

Claim 21 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 20, wherein said activation means is reversibly engaged with the expansion means.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 23, wherein at least a portion of the activation means is external to the subject.

Claim 25 (Original) A method of distracting a first tissue region and a second tissue region, comprising: implanting the connective tissue distraction device of claim 1 into a subject and distracting the first tissue region and the second tissue region.

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Claim 26 (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein said first tissue region and said second tissue region are separated.

Claim 27 (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the first tissue region and the second tissue region are separated by an osteotomy.

Claim 28 (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein said osteotomy is intermediate the first and second tissue regions.

Claim 29 (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the first transmitting means is attached to the first tissue region and the second transmitting means is attached to the second tissue region.

Claim 30 (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the expansion means are activated by the activation means.

Claim 31 (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the expansion means are removed from the body of the subject.

Claims 32-41 (Canceled).